



Renewable
Hydrogen Coalition

RENEWABLE HYDROGEN COALITION MANIFESTO

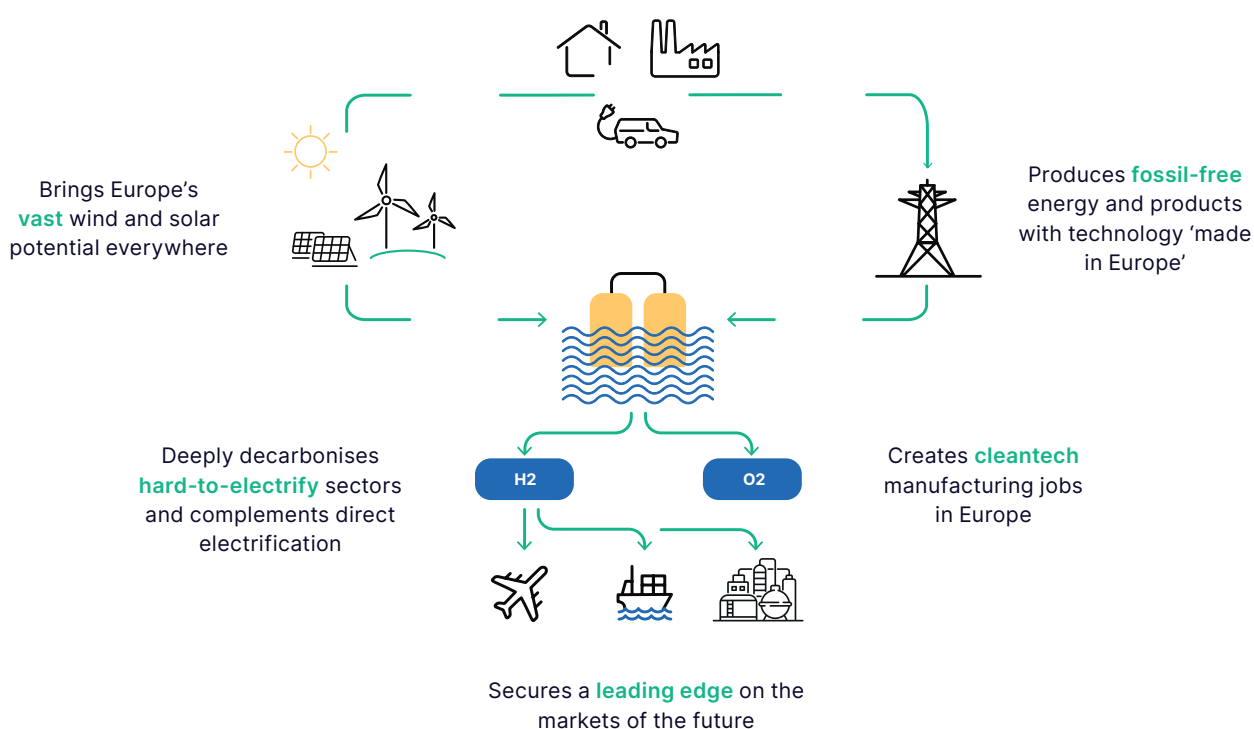
**FOR A COMPETITIVE AND
RESILIENT EUROPEAN INDUSTRY**

Europe set pioneering policies and ambitious goals to become global leader in renewable hydrogen. Yet less than 10% of the announced projects in Europe have reached final investment decision, while other parts of the world are catching up.

Time is running out. Europe risks losing the race for future-proof jobs, industries and

cleantech. The next European mandate has a unique opportunity to drive the growth of the nascent European renewable hydrogen industry into a global powerhouse. But urgent and bold action is imperative. With the right policies and financial support, our sector can build a competitive European industry, secure industrial leadership, and enhance Europe's security and resilience.

Driver of industrial transformation



Why choose renewable hydrogen?

Carbon Free

Renewable hydrogen emits no carbon in production and does not rely on imported fossil fuels, unlike fossil-based low-carbon hydrogen

1 million jobs

created in Europe by 2030 by investing in renewable hydrogen, reaching 5.4 million by 2050.

Source: FCH JU

12%

decrease in EU's natural gas demand by switching current fossil-based hydrogen with renewable hydrogen

Source: BloombergNEF

€ 820 billion

worth European industry potentially by 2050.

Source: European Commission

70-100 million tonnes of CO₂

could be avoided each year in Europe by switching current fossil hydrogen with renewable hydrogen, equivalent to the yearly emissions of Czech Republic.

Source: European Parliament

The Need for an Immediate Renewable Hydrogen Scale Up Plan

Policymakers, in the first 100 days of the new legislative term, we need a strong EU plan to accelerate the deployment of renewable hydrogen and boost the global competitiveness of our sector.

Choosing security, sovereignty and resilience

Action 1: Prioritise renewable hydrogen in all legislation and public funding instruments and ensure fast implementation. Phasing down fossil fuels and choosing renewable energy, renewable hydrogen, and electrolyzers made in Europe is a choice for security, competitive European industries, just transition and a cleaner planet for all. Ambitious laws for renewable hydrogen have rightly been adopted, setting robust production rules and targets to use renewable hydrogen in hard-to-electrify industry, aviation and shipping by 2030. These should now be implemented fast with a view to ensure legal stability and investment certainty in this early market phase.

Funding4Future: Simpler, Faster, Bigger

Action 2: Set strong EU funding to massively scale up renewable hydrogen production and related value chains in Europe, bridge the cost gap and deliver the 2030 targets for renewable hydrogen and its derivatives. Europe does not face an innovation challenge but volumes and cost. Access to public funding is also too slow. In the face of fierce competition from continent-size countries like China, a true European – not national – response is needed. The European Hydrogen Bank – a first-of-its-kind – is highly promising response that should become Europe’s primary financing tool to deploy industrial-scale projects with speed and simplicity, deliver economies of scale and bring costs down. Its scope should remain limited to renewable hydrogen to ensure impact and best use of public money. Its budget now needs to be increased to bring full cost parity with fossil alternatives so hard-to-electrify sectors can invest at least cost, remain competitive and benefit from predictability. EU countries should use its “Auction as a Service” to deliver faster and simpler access to public funding at national level. The European Investment Bank (EIB) should also issue counter-guarantees to unlock private banking loans for

renewable hydrogen projects. An additional avenue is to prolong the provisions for European net-zero manufacturers in the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework (TCTF).

Forging Global Industrial Leadership

Action 3: Adopt a strong European industrial policy to turn Europe’s innovation edge in electrolyzers into global industrial leadership. The future of electrolyser manufacturing must be “made in Europe”. The EU targets to deploy at least 100 GW of electrolyser capacity by 2030 to supply the volumes of renewable hydrogen it needs. Building a sustainable, competitive, and resilient renewable hydrogen value chain in Europe is a matter of strategic industrial autonomy and security. Achieving this will require promoting European manufacturing standards across all legislation and public financing tools, for example auctions under the European Hydrogen Bank by complementing price-only auctions with non-price criteria. This will drive a race to the top and ensure taxpayers’ money brings back wealth and jobs to Europeans. The renewable hydrogen sector will also need skilled people. The EU must focus on skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling, helping workers move to the economy of the future.

Target and Plan For A Brighter Future

Action 4: Establish ambitious binding 2040 targets for the deployment of renewables including renewable hydrogen. Current 2030 targets should be complemented by targets for 2040 for renewable hydrogen only. Such targets are essential to set clear directions for markets over time, instil investor confidence and drive investments in those sectors that need to deeply decarbonise, modernise, and secure a leading edge on the markets of the future.

Action 5: Roll-out fit-for-purpose electricity and hydrogen infrastructure, connecting electricity and hydrogen supply centers with demand hubs that typically require pure hydrogen (e.g., fertiliser and chemical sectors, e-fuels for aviation and shipping). Sizing such an infrastructure pursuant to maximising renewable-based direct and indirect electrification of our society will ensure the most cost-effective and energy efficient energy system integration.

What If We Don't Choose Renewable Hydrogen

Warning: The Price of Losing Focus

Europe faces a critical decision: continue relying on volatile imported fossil fuels or embrace renewable energy and renewable hydrogen. With more than 96% of Europe's hydrogen sourced from fossil fuels, fossil hydrogen not only exacerbates climate change but maintains our dependence on external energy sources. This holds even more true for fossil low-carbon hydrogen that can deeply undermine decarbonisation efforts if poorly regulated. Worse, it further weakens Europe's security by deepening detrimental dependencies, for which Europe has already paid a high price over the past two years.

Funding gap: Investment will happen outside Europe

Final investment decisions in Europe are lagging. The cost of producing renewable hydrogen is still higher than that of fossil alternatives, notably due to the real price of carbon not being fully reflected and high charges and levies on renewable electricity. Inflationary pressures and increasing interest rates have also hampered projects' bankability. More importantly, national and EU public funding is still too limited, dispersed, hard to access and narrowly focused

(e.g. solely on capital expenditure or innovation). Not closing the funding gap will impede strategic European sectors such as steel, agriculture, chemicals, aviation and shipping to modernise and become more competitive globally. They will relocate where the investment case is better, outside Europe.

Global Pressure: EU's Cleantech Leadership at Risk

The EU has spent billions of public money investing in research, development and demonstration to bring electrolyser technologies to commercial maturity. Today Europe proudly houses the most innovative electrolyser companies manufacturing unmatched high-quality, efficient and reliable technologies. Most of its demand for electrolysers is met with European technology. But Europe is rapidly losing ground to global competitors that benefit from simpler and bolder public support, lower energy costs, while having weaker environmental and labour standards. The absence of a robust and unified European response to global competition threatens Europe's sovereignty in this strategic technology. Our expertise, jobs that pay well Europeans, and the business opportunity are in serious risk of slipping away.

Policymakers, let us seize this unique opportunity for Europe, transforming challenges into success and propelling our continent towards a future defined by industrial excellence, sustainability, and prosperity.

The time to act is now – for a Europe that leads, innovates, and inspires.

The **Renewable Hydrogen Coalition (RHC)** promotes the critical role of renewable hydrogen to deliver the EU's long-term decarbonisation goals. The Coalition is the voice of innovative start-ups, investors, entrepreneurs, leading companies and industrial off-takers all dedicated to making Europe the global leader in renewable hydrogen solutions.

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